

What are citations?

Enforcement officers issue traffic citations (tickets) to drivers for violations of traffic laws. Most citations are written on the Wisconsin Uniform Traffic Citation (UTC) form. Each citation must be resolved by a court action.

What are convictions?

A traffic conviction results from a guilty plea or court finding of guilty when a person is cited for a traffic violation. When a court finds a driver guilty of a charge, the person usually pays a fine or forfeiture and is assessed demerit points on point assessable offenses.

What happens to citations and convictions?

The courts forward all citations to the DMV. The DMV is required to record convictions to establish a person's driving history. The DMV maintains this history of Wisconsin drivers to determine when license withdrawal is necessary. Some single convictions require that DMV withdraw a license. Other times a driver's accumulation of demerit points triggers an action.

How long does a conviction remain on the record?

In general, convictions remain on the driver record for five years from date of conviction. There are some situations, however, where entries remain on the record beyond five years. These include non-compliance with a driver safety plan, unsatisfied damage judgments, all commercial motor vehicle disqualifying convictions and alcohol related convictions.

Do convictions from other states affect a person's Wisconsin record?

Yes, when Wisconsin drivers are convicted in other states DMV enters the convictions on the Wisconsin driver record but without points being assessed. With a serious offense, such as operating while intoxicated, drivers may lose their operating privilege.

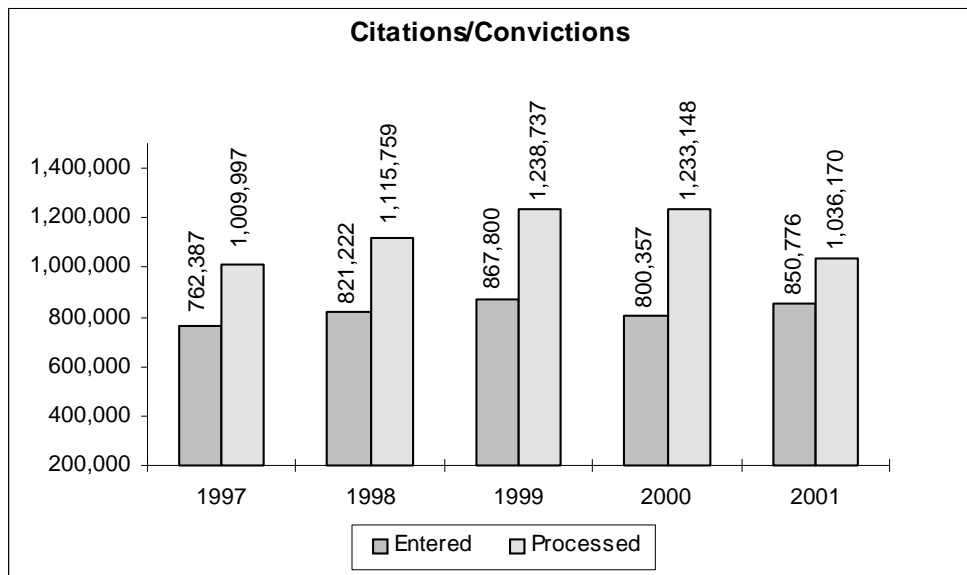
What happens to out-of-state drivers?

When a nonresident is convicted in Wisconsin, DMV notifies the driver's home state of the offense so that state can take appropriate action. A Wisconsin driver record is created for major offenses and license withdrawals are entered the same as for a Wisconsin driver.

For more information contact:

Bureau of Driver Services
Revocation and Suspension Section
(608) 266-2261
cnr.dmv@dot.state.wi.us

14 Citations and Convictions



Source: Bureau of Driver Services, Report #P7011923-2 (convictions entered); Records and Licensing Information Section (convictions processed)

‘Entered’ means convictions were posted to the Driver Record.

‘Processed’ includes convictions posted to the Driver Record and those that do not post to the Driver Record. For example, tickets that are written to out-of-state drivers, to companies, that are dismissed, or not guilty, etc., still need to be sorted, filmed, and processed because of UTC accountability issues.

**Traffic Convictions Entered on Driver Record File
January–December 2001**

Rank	Charge		Quantity YTD	& of Total
1	SI	Speeding intermediate	175,389	20.62%
2	S	Speeding	91,514	10.76%
3	FFS	Failure to fasten seat belt	89,686	10.54%
4	OVS	Operating while suspended***	54,138	6.36%
5	FOS	Failure to obey traffic sign or signal	46,012	5.41%
6	UV	Unregistered vehicle	40,870	4.80%
7	SE	Speeding excess	34,645	4.07%
8	UAL	Underage alcohol (207)	34,582	4.06%
9	OWI	Operat. under influence intoxicant/controlled substance	33,164	3.90%
10	OWL	Operating w/o driver license	31,084	3.65%
11	OAR	Operating after revocation***	28,099	3.30%
12	ORS	Operating while registration suspended (209)	19,620	2.31%
13	FYR	Failure to yield right of way	16,302	1.92%
14	DS	Defective speedometer	15,412	1.81%
15	IP	Improper plates	12,363	1.45%
16	ID	Inattentive driving	10,264	1.21%
17	IL	No or improper lights	8,187	0.96%
18	OT	Obstructing traffic	8,159	0.96%
19	JA	Juvenile alcohol*	6,953	0.82%
20	FTC	Following too closely	6,596	0.78%
21	IT	Illegal turn	6,159	0.72%
22	IVO	Intoxicant in vehicle-operator	5,673	0.67%
23	IS	Imprudent speed	5,122	0.60%
24	TFC	Too fast for conditions	4,858	0.57%
25	CSR	Child safety restraint	4,327	0.51%
26	DLT	Deviating from lane of traffic	4,264	0.50%
27	PI	Passing illegally	3,872	0.46%
28	FRA	Failure to report accident	3,710	0.44%
29	VOR	Violation of restriction	3,355	0.39%
30	RD	Reckless Driving	2,938	0.35%
31	PAC	Prohibited alcohol concentration (212)	2,844	0.33%
32	DWS	Driving on wrong side of highway	2,429	0.29%
33	IM	Improper muffler	2,278	0.27%
34	D	Drug convictions	2,235	0.26%
35	FVC	Failure to keep vehicle under control	2,061	0.24%
36	BI	Backing illegally	1,984	0.23%
37	UAO	Underage alcohol operation*	1,938	0.23%
38	IVP	Intoxicant in vehicle-passenger	1,870	0.22%
39	T	Truancy	1,772	0.21%
40	IIV	Intoxicant in vehicle carrying underage person	1,663	0.20%
41	FSU	Failure to stop after accident - unattended vehicle	1,651	0.19%
42	MSC	Miscellaneous	1,522	0.18%
43	IE	Improper equipment	1,512	0.18%
44	CSI	Comm. speeding intermediate (15-19 over)	1,431	0.17%
45	DSP	Duty upon striking property	1,381	0.16%

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	Rank	Charge	Quantity	% of Total
46	PUP	Permitting unauthorized person to operate	1,364	0.16%
47	FSB	Failure to stop for school bus	1,249	0.15%
48	FSA	Failure to stop after accident	984	0.12%
49	CD	Careless driving	908	0.11%
50	LNP	License not on person	813	0.10%
51	OV	Obstructed view or control	770	0.09%
52	IC	Implied consent	695	0.08%
53	FGS	Failure to give signal	654	0.08%
54	UID	Underage ID (208)	588	0.07%
55	AEO	Attempt to elude officer	581	0.07%
56	IB	Improper brakes	439	0.05%
57	OII	Operating while intoxicated causing injury	437	0.05%
58	DOW	Driving over walk	425	0.05%
59	CFC	Comm. following too closely	385	0.05%
60	POH	Parking on highway	377	0.04%
61	JCS	Juvenile controlled substance	368	0.04%
62	UA	Unnecessary acceleration	318	0.04%
63	FTT	Failure to transfer title	298	0.04%
64	R	Racing	265	0.03%
65	CDL	Comm. deviating from lane of traffic	264	0.03%
66	FDL	Failure to dim lights	259	0.03%
67	TPV	Transporting person or vehicle illegally	204	0.02%
68	CSE	Comm. speeding excess (20 or more over)	194	0.02%
69	OWD	Operating while disqualified	180	0.02%
70	GPV	GDL Passenger Violation (203)	179	0.02%
71	MDO	Miscellaneous driving offenses (204)	141	0.02%
72	UN	Unnecessary noise	133	0.02%
73	FA	Falsified application	129	0.02%
74	CUL	Comm. unlawful license	126	0.01%
75	CTF	Comm. too fast for conditions	106	0.01%
76	DAT	Driving against traffic	95	0.01%
77	IUL	Illegal use of operator's license	94	0.01%
78	FD	Found delinquent	90	0.01%
79	CPI	Comm. passing illegally	89	0.01%
80	GCV	GDL Curfew Violation (202)	88	0.01%
81	OML	Operating with multiple licenses	84	0.01%
82	FAR	Falsified accident report	71	0.01%
83	CIS	Comm. imprudent speed	58	0.01%
84	CWI	Comm. operating while intoxicated	49	0.01%
85	LOL	Loaning of license	43	0.01%
86	VOO	Violation of occupational license	35	0.00%
87	COO	Comm. 0.0 - not a drop	28	0.00%
88	CDS	Comm. duty upon striking property	24	0.00%
89	CFR	Comm. failure to report accident	23	0.00%

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Rank	Charge	Quantity	% of Total
90	GBH Great bodily harm	23	0.00%
91	JID Juvenile ID	22	0.00%
92	CRD Comm. reckless driving	18	0.00%
93	CFH Crossing fire hose	16	0.00%
94	VUF Vehicle used in commission of felony	13	0.00%
95	CCD Comm. careless driving	11	0.00%
96	LH Littering highway	11	0.00%
97	NHI Negligent homicide intoxicated	10	0.00%
98	CPB Comm. possession of intoxicant beverage	8	0.00%
99	CFU Comm. failure to stop after accident-unattended vehicle	7	0.00%
100	CA Commercial alcohol	7	0.00%
101	FPS Failure to pay support (205)	4	0.00%
102	HWI Haz comm. operating while intoxicated	4	0.00%
103	IR Illegal riding (passenger-0 points)	4	0.00%
104	HFR Haz comm. failure to report accident	3	0.00%
105	ICU Implied consent underage	3	0.00%
106	ADL Altering driver license	2	0.00%
107	HCA Haz comm. alcohol	2	0.00%
108	HDS Haz comm. duty upon striking property	2	0.00%
109	HFS Haz comm. failure to stop after accident	2	0.00%
110	IDT Ignition/immobilization device tampering	2	0.00%
111	NH Negligent homicide	2	0.00%
112	AV Arterial violation	1	0.00%
113	BO Boulevard ordinance	1	0.00%
114	CFS Comm. failure to stop after accident-attended vehicle	1	0.00%
115	CIC Comm. implied consent	1	0.00%
116	CVF Comm. Vehicle used in Commission of Felony	1	0.00%
117	HIC Haz comm. implied consent	1	0.00%
118	OSB Operating w/o school bus license/endorsement	1	0.00%
119	UBH Unnecessary blowing of horn	1	0.00%
TOTAL		850,776	

* Under the legal drinking age (under 21); violation under Chapter 48 & 125

** Under 21 years of age;not-a-drop, Statue 345.63(2m)

***Beginning with July 1998 report, OAR & OWS will be reported as separate totals.